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Head coach Jody Wynn waves her first and last Big West Championship net with the 49ers. She is leaving the women's basketball program after eight seasons and heading to the University of Washington.
Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WYNN-LESS

Long Beach State will start national search for new head coach immediately.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

Less than a month after leading the Long Beach State women's basketball team to its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 25 years, head coach Jody Wynn is leaving to take over the program at the University of Washington.

The announcement came Friday, after reports that Wynn was in Washington last weekend and was also a top candidate for USC's current vacancy, where she first played and started her coaching career.

Wynn led LBSU to a 69-20 record the last three years and started to get national recognition after the 49ers came seconds away from defeating Oregon State March 17 in Corvallis, Oregon.

It was that inspired defensive performance that many analysts pointed to when discussing LBSU's ability to stop OSU's sharpshooter Sydney Wiese, who was drafted by the Los Angeles Sparks with the 11th pick during Thursday's WNBA Draft.

While many might think it was a common-sense choice for Wynn to leave — it wasn't that easy.

see **WYNN**, page 7

ACTIVISM

Protesters nationwide demand Trump's tax returns

Advocates demand transparency regarding president's financial history.

By Matthew Ramirez
Staff Writer

Cities across the United States joined in a protest on Saturday to demand the release of President Donald Trump's tax returns.

On the west coast, the city of Los Angeles had a gathering of an estimated 10,000 people, according to the Los Angeles police department.

Protesters could be seen on street corners, in front of restaurants and stores as well as on every city block in the around Pershing Square in downtown LA. People from Los Angeles as well as cities around the country attended the event.

"I personally feel that he was hiding something on his tax returns and all I can say is I need [Trump] out," said Mary Reddington, a protester who stood on the corner of Seventh Street and South Grand Avenue.

Since Trump began his campaign, he has been reluctant to disclose his tax returns, a presidential tradition to show transparency that has been used since the 1970s.

During his election campaign in 2016, Trump was asked by reporters when he would release his taxes. Multiple times he's avoided their requests by claiming that he is under audit and is unable to, while the Internal Revenue Service denied this inability.

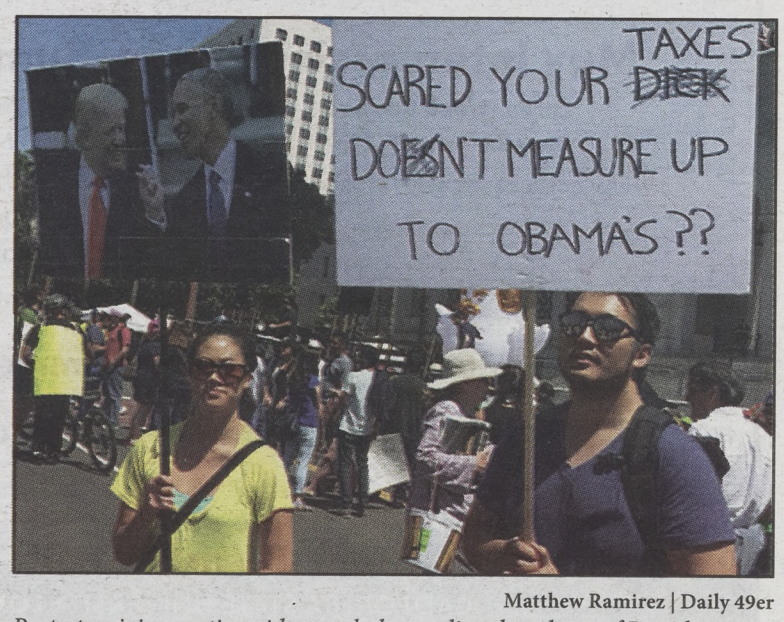
Trump later said, "I don't think anybody cares," in an interview with ABC regarding his information on tax returns – polls later showed this claim to be false among citizens.

The protest began at Pershing Square and moved toward City Hall as people chanted phrases such as "Lock him up," a play on the phrase "Lock her up!" as a reference to Hillary Clinton from the 2016 election.

Trump made promises to constituents that he would hire prosecutor to look into Clinton's use of a private email server.

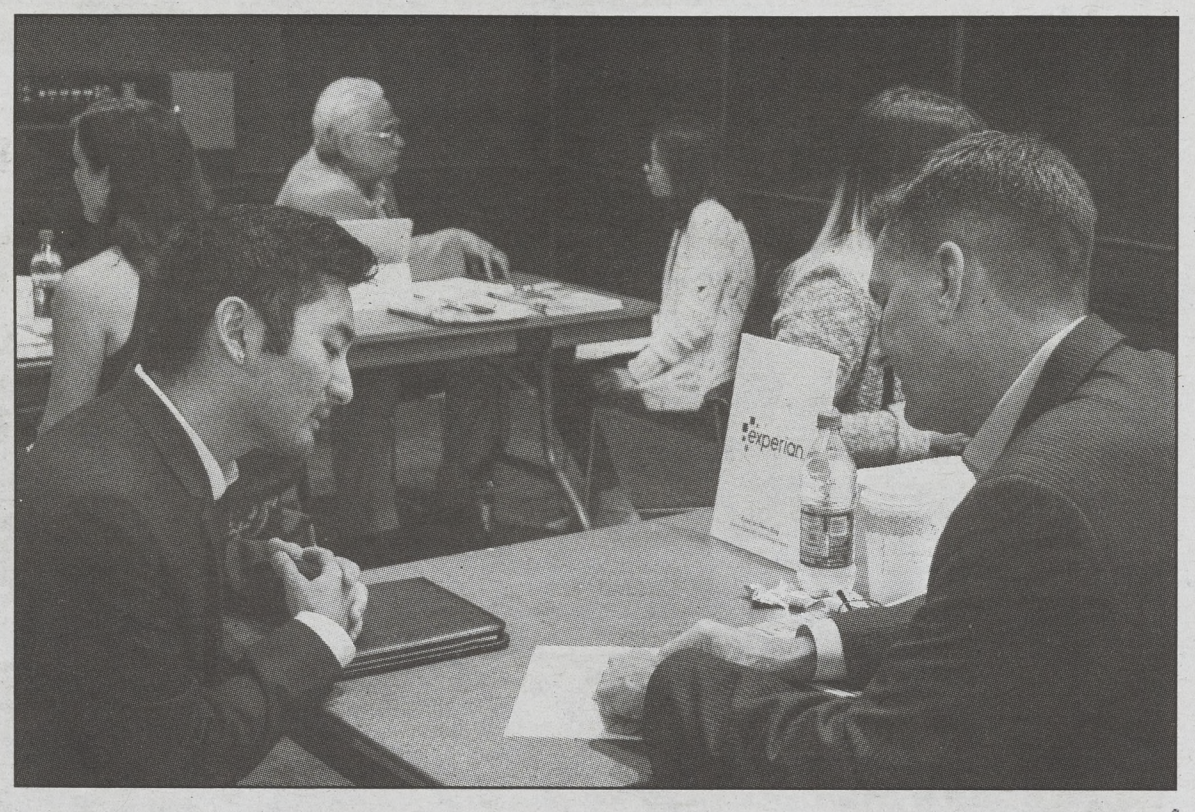
"Him not showing his taxes is

see **MARCH**, page 2



Matthew Ramirez | Daily 49er
Protesters join a nationwide march demanding the release of President Donald Trump's tax returns on Saturday in downtown Los Angeles.

Journalism student Lei Phillips was one of the many students who asked questions during the "Careers in Social Media" panel on Journalism and Public Relations Day at the University Student Union Ballroom Thursday.



Senior vice president of communications at Experian Gerry Tschopp, right, gives advice to public relations student Drew Mametsuka during Journalism and Public Relations Day Thursday.

JPR Day presents career opportunity

Journalism and public relations students were given the chance to network with professionals, listen to and query expert panelists, as well as be acknowledged for their work at Journalism and Public Relations Day on Thursday. A panel on "Careers in Social Media" addressed the growing field of marketing and reporting through mediums like Facebook and Twitter. Professionals from Monday Morning Quarterback, The Honest Company, the.#WeAllGrow Latina Network, Los Angeles Times and Trailer Park spoke about how social media has shaped their careers.

The "Storytelling in Diverse Communities" panel featured Teri Sforza from the OC Register, Jesus Ayala from ABC News and Anh Do from the Los Angeles Times.

Throughout the entire event, students had the opportunity to meet and show their resumes to 11 public relations and journalism professionals in networking sessions.

To wrap up the event, students were recognized for the work they do for the various campus media outlets and in their classes, and over $20,000 in scholarships were awarded to students.

Photos by Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

MARCH

continued from page 1

something no other president has done before. And as citizens, we deserve to know where this money is going," said Rachel London, a resident of LA.

Local and state representatives came to speak during the event, including state Congressman Ted Lieu, Rep. Brad Sherman, state Sen. Mike McGuire of the second Senate District.

Topics included Trump's lack of disclosure and the administration's policies on immigration and the inequalities between working class people and the wealthy.

"It's shocking to me that Trump and his administration think only news agencies are interested in his taxes," said Claudia Perea, a protester from LA. "We want to make sure he's not beholden to Russia financially."

The Tax March group, a collection of political and social advocates, is suspicious on why Trump has refused to release his taxes and why Congress has protected him from doing so. Advocates and citizens alike feel that this act poses a threat to American democracy and have organized to protest this and the entire Trump administration.

Protesters used a variety of signs and each with their own creativity by attaching tax forms to boards which they wore on their chest and back with the words, "Lead by example."

Protester Dawn Dorland said Saturday's demonstration benefitted the people in reconnecting with each other politically and for showing unity during a time of division.

"I thought it was important to show up. When Kellyanne Conway said that the tax returns don't matter these protests show that we [think they] do," Dorland said.

The Tax March protest in Los Angeles was peaceful as there was no confrontation between attendees and no reported arrests were made. Protests in Berkeley, however, resulted in the injuries of 11 people and the arrest of 20, according to NBC Los Angeles.

Trump tweeted during the protests, "Someone should look into who paid for the small organized rallies yesterday. The election is over!" but has not provided any information on releasing his taxes.

CAMPUS EVENTS

CSULB celebrates 45th annual Psychology Day

CSULB PSA and PSI CHI Honor Society hosts the event.

By Hasham Nusrat
Staff Writer

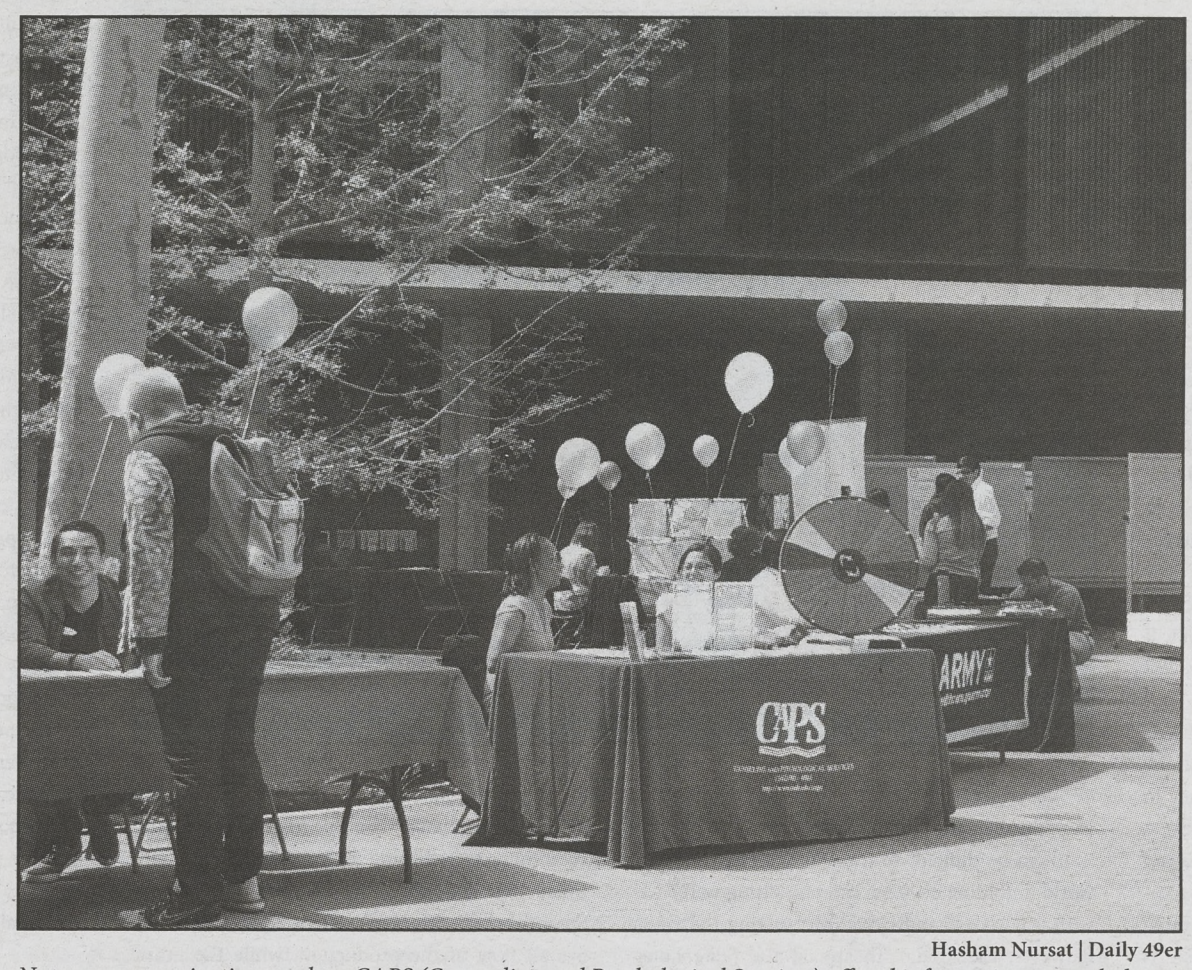
More than 50 people came to the 45th annual Psychology Day held by the Psychology Student Association and PSI CHI Honor Society on Thursday. The day is the biggest event of the year for the major.

"We invite programs and organizations from around the Los Angeles area to talk to students about grad school and career opportunities," said senior psychology student Sara Castro, who is also the vice president of PSA. "We also hold research fairs [and] workshops. It is a big event where we want to provide students with resources."

The main purpose of the event was to give psychology students more information to succeed during their time at CSULB, Castro said.

PSA uses the event to encourage students to be more active in the program and participate in the research that fellow students conduct.

"It's a great event which provides a lot of opportunities for all students especially psychology majors, we love to come to Psych Day. At Long Beach BLAST we believe in making every student inspired to succeed academically and personally," said Hailey Baker, the Volunteer Program Coordinator for the Long Beach BLAST organization.



Hasham Nursat | Daily 49er

Numerous organizations such as CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) offered information to psychology students during the 45th annual Psychology Day Thursday.

Numerous organizations came to the event and set up the information desk tables for the students. Long Beach BLAST, Active Minds, School on Wheels Inc., Chapman University and Alliant International University of Professional Psychology were among other universities and organizations that came to CSULB and set up their information tables for the CSULB students during the event.

"I've volunteered with a lot of organizations, but there is nothing really like this. It's a very unique voluntary program," said Emile Kanhai, a recruitment specialist for School on Wheels Inc. "We reach to the homeless population and we work with children one on one."

Students also had the opportunity to present their research. One of the students demonstrated his research work on anxiety and explained that how many students are directly affected from it. He did the research on CSULB students.

"We promote mental health awareness," said Leslie Delgado, a senior psychology major student who is also a member of Active Minds.

"We want everyone to know about the prevalence of mental health service here on campus. And every one of four students is affected by mental health every year."

Psychology Student Association is open to anyone who is interested in joining. Their weekly scheduled meeting takes place in LH-150 every other Wednesday.

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MATH G140 Business Calculus	MATH 115 Calculus for Business
MATH G160 Introduction to Statistics	HDEV 250 Elementary Statistics in Social and Behavioral Sciences
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CSULB THEATRE ARTS

Feminist noir in Bergman's 'Nora'

Based on Ibsen's "A Doll's House," the CSULB Theatre Arts play opened this past Friday to a full house.

By Sommer Dalton
Staff Writer

Graphic illustration by Stephanie Hak | Daily 49er

Producing an adaptation of a century old play can be tricky: there has to be a balance between the modern and just enough reference to the past.

In Ingmar Bergman's play "Nora," the classic Henrik Ibsen play "A Doll's House" is reworked to highlight gender roles in modern times exceptionally well.

Ibsen's work was released at a time when the early waves of feminism were beginning to sprout. It worked to challenge social conventions and reveal the realities of modern humanity.

Serving as a now-modern adaptation to Ibsen's work, "Nora" also looks to examine similar issues centered on gender roles and the journey to self-discovery one embarks on throughout life.

"Nora" follows the story of the perfect wife and mother who has a secret that can destroy her family. The play itself is set in a time where claiming independence results in outrage and feminism is seen as scandalous. This production did well to keep the focus on the most important aspects of a play: the dialogue and the acting.

It can be difficult to transport oneself into the world unfolding on stage if you're sitting well back with a fairly tall individual obstructing the view. However, the Studio Theatre at Cal State Long Beach provides an intimate setting that allows the audience to connect with "Nora" on all levels.

Audience members are able to get up close with each character, allowing the experience to be both interactive and enriching to everyone present. Smooth transitions between acts also added to the overall flow of the production, while the music and lighting throughout helped set the mood for each scene. Together, these elements came together beautifully, serving as the final touches on an overall fantastic theatre experience.

The limited props and decorations help to completely immerse the audience in the delivery of the dialogue and the emotions of each character. Directed by Christopher Shaw, this lean, stripped-down method of production seemingly served as a way for Shaw to put acting at the forefront of the audience.

Both Jessica Soza, who played Nora, and Riel Paley, who played Torvald Helmer, displayed a deep understanding of the character's hardships as well as the mindset of a married couple in that era of early wave feminism. Their chemistry was truly apparent when the pair shared the stage, engaging in the very real matters that having a family and spouse provides people with: money, sickness, disputes, etc.

Again, it was here that the lack of props forced the actors to emphasize body language and touch.

Soza's portrayal of Nora was engaging and enthusiastic. Her character seemed to set the tone for the performance, doing well to lead her fellow stage members through the changing moods of the dialogue. Her energy and stage presence radiated throughout the theater, allowing the audience to connect with every look and word she presented us with.

Torvald, her husband, did well to provide us

see **THEATRE**, page 5

EVENT PREVIEW

Sneak peek of campus Earth Week

CSULB Sustainability plans events for Monday-Thursday.

By Jason Enns
Arts & Life Editor

It's not quite time to celebrate mom, but it is nearing that time of year we do something special for Mother Earth. International Earth Day is on April 22, but Cal State Long Beach Sustainability is bringing Earth Week to campus starting today, with events throughout the week leading up to the environmental holiday.

The free festivities begin tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the University Student Union Ballrooms, with a "Silent Spring" screening and panel. The documentary follows the life and works of biologist Rachel Carson, whose landmark work in the 1950s and '60s sparked a revolution in environmental policy and created a new ecological consciousness.

There will be a panel discussion after the showing with CSULB environmental educators and local community leaders.

The screening advertises free pizza and popcorn, and, like most events on this week's schedule, B.Y.O.B. — bring your own (reusable) bottle. These are also features for Tuesday's "Eco-Fair."

Stephanie Hak | Daily 49er

The fair is from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Speaker's Platform in front of the bookstore. On top of the promise of pizza, this event guarantees eco-themed carnival games, giveaways and the Engineers for a Sustainable World will host a sustainable doghouse competition.

Rather than B.Y.O.B., Wednesday's Earth Week celebration invites us to B.Y.O.T. — bring your own T-shirt or tote bag.

From 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on April 19, enjoy a photo booth, music and a screen-printing station. Make a custom design while learning more about DIY eco-crafts.

The week will come to a close Thursday with the Green Generation Mixer and Sustainability Project Showcase at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden.

The showcase will feature sustainability-related student and faculty work that explores a variety of innovative topics and solutions. The evening promises free mingling, music and food for students, staff and faculty, but requires an RSVP at www.GreenGen2017.Eventbrite.com.

Earth Day will be here Saturday, and though Earth Week will be over, the day will mark as a final reminder to be environmentally conscience.

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CARPENTER CENTER

NYT columnist talks tonight

Famous author and activist to speak at the CPAC.

By Jason Enns
Arts & Life Editor

Courtesy of Creative Commons

Nicholas Kristof getting his hair shaved in Pearl Roundabout in Bahrain.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and long-time New York Times op-ed columnist Nicholas Kristof is coming to Cal State Long Beach tonight. Kristof is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

He is known as a writer and activist, often focusing his efforts uncovering stories of neglect issues. The Washington Post says that he "rewrote opinion journalism" with his emphasis on human rights abuses and social injustices globally.

"If it's not getting a lot of attention, I feel that by writing about it, I can draw more attention in ways that will actually make a difference. That's incredibly satisfying," he said in an article published on csulb.edu.

Kristof is probably best known for his work on the Darfur conflict in 2004. Darfur is a Western region of Sudan whose social climate escalated to war in 2003 between rebel groups fighting against the oppression of the non-Arab population, and the Government of Sudan who began a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against the rebels. It was considered to be one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the world, where fighting led to an estimated 480,000 deaths and more than 3 million others were forced into refugee camps, according to the United Nations website.

"I feel I helped, along with lots of others, and there was a positive outcome and a lot of lives were saved," he said about his time in Darfur. He has visited the region 11 times.

His speech is said to cover his activism, his 33-year long career and and his travels which include visits to over 160 countries.

Kristof is a seven-time Pulitzer finalist. He claimed his first Pulitzer Prize in 1990 alongside his wife Sheryl WuDunn, which they won for their work reporting the pro-democracy student movement and the related Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

He will discuss ideas from his book "A Path Appears," a narrative about making a difference in the world. He is said to motivate through captivating stories of individuals and organizations applying research, evidence-based strategies, and innovative ideas to make the world a better place, according to the Carpenter Center website.

Tickets to tonight's event are still available for $20 online and at the box office, and only $10 for readers who use discount code BEACH.

THEATRE

continued from page 4

with a look into the role of a man, and what it means to be the breadwinner in the household.

Paley's character seemed to shine the most when paired with Nora on stage. It was here that his animated voice and engaging gestures served as a way to draw the audience into each scene.

Dr. Rank, played by Chris Bange, provided a breath of fresh air every time his character emerged on stage. The audience was able to uncover his hidden affection for Nora slowly throughout the play, feeding into the hinted love triangle seen as it unravels. Bange's strong voice and lively stage presence added a valuable dimension to the performance, overall spicing up its delivery.

Mrs. Linde and Nils Krogstad, portrayed by Likun Jing and Brandon Pascal, respectively, serve as the glue of the production. Jing's character is seen as the voice of wisdom at times. Her voice is soft yet powerful when backed by the emotions and words of her character, Mrs. Linde.

Krogstad, who could at first be labeled as the bad guy, quickly evolved in front of the audience's eyes. Pascal gave a multidimensional performance, allowing viewers to dig deep into his character and the many sides we see of him. The cast chemistry overall was cohesive and fluid.

Ingmar Bergman's "Nora" runs through April 23.. Ticket information can be found online, with general admission priced at $17 and $14 for students with a valid ID.

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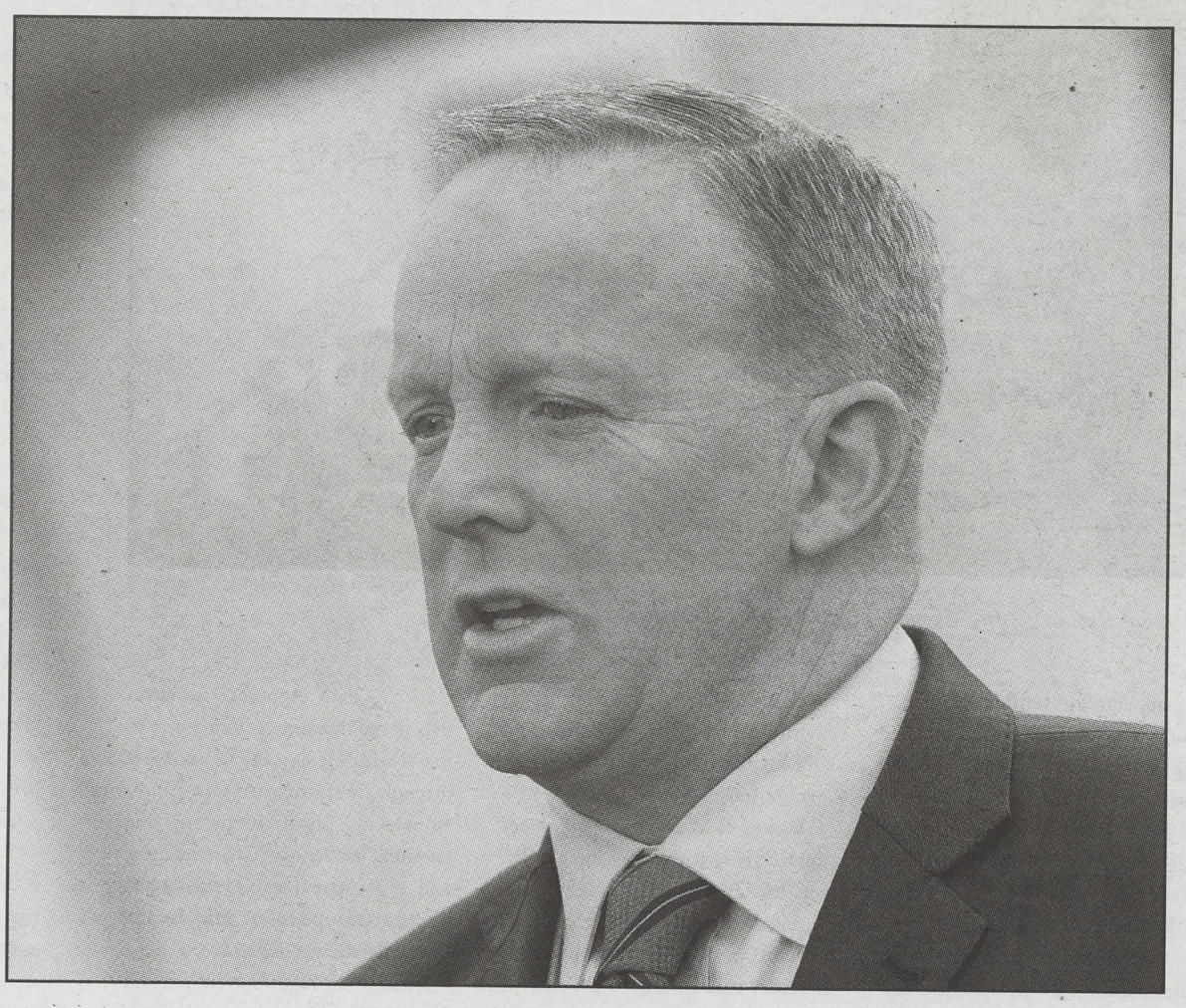
SYRIA

Grab a textbook, Spicer, you're in for a ride

White House press secretary takes a wrong turn into Nazi Germany; compares Hitler to Assad.

By Marilyn Isabel Ramirez
Staff Writer



Olivier Douliery | Abaca Press
Press secretary Sean Spicer apologizes for his comments related to Hitler during a TV interview at the White House in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, April 11.

It's been 72 years since Adolf Hitler's death, yet we can't escape those who make ignorant statements regarding his damaging effects through the Holocaust.

President Donald Trump's White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, during his debriefing on April 11, decided to compare the war atrocities of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and Hitler in an effort to defend Trump's recent bombing of Syria. He argued that, when compared to the recent gas attacks ordered by al-Assad, even Hitler wouldn't use such a weapon during WWII.

He blatantly ignored that millions of Jews were gassed in Nazi concentration camps.

"We didn't use chemical weapons in World War II," Spicer said. "You know, you had someone as despicable as Hitler who didn't even sink to using chemical weapons."

This initial comment not only forgets the fact that chemical weapons were implemented into Hitler's genocidal plans, but decides to focus on a moment in history which precedes future acts of violence by the United States.

The use of U.S.-sourced tear gas against peaceful protesters during Black Lives Matters Protests, protests at Standing Rock, and its use to control Israel-Palestine conflicts overseas, revealed more recently through viral photos. The World Post documents different cases of dangerous, U.S. made tear gas used by Israel to target Palestinian activists.

When asked to clarify his initial comment, Spicer argued that there was a difference between the way Hitler used gas in comparison to al-Assad.

"I think when you come to sarin gas, [Hitler] was not using the gas on his own people the same way that Assad is doing," Spicer said.

In addition to this being incongruent to militant police use of tear gas in America, his comment further dismisses genocidal violence committed by Nazi Germany against Jews living in the country at the time.

This apology was a failed attempt to reconcile the injury he committed. Spicer should have apologized for misspeaking, and for attempting to piggyback off the suffering of marginalized peoples.

After all, why would Hitler need to use chemical weapons on his own people when fear and ignorance fueled the power in his persuasion?

These are the leaders we have put into power: white, ignorant men who select what historical information works best for their agenda.

His comments were nowhere near deal. Foolish and ridiculous, yes, but the pressure to answer to the capacity of people to be dealt with at weekly briefings may increase the chances of verbal blunders.

> "These are the leaders we have put into power: white, ignorant men who select what historical information works best for their agenda."

However, the fact that Spicer's position in the White House permits him to tell blatant lies in front of the nation, unintentional or otherwise, says a lot about the character of this country.

Our leaders make stupid decisions. For example, bombing another country so that it stops bombing itself. Then, the leaders' press secretaries have to explain to the country the reasoning behind the decision — but they can't, because there really isn't one, so the secretaries are forced to come up with something atrocious to make the decision seem supported and reasonable.

In this case, Spicer thought it best to compare the situation in Syria to World War II. Any reasonable person would agree that the heinous acts manifested by Hitler are incomparable by tenfold.

Yet, in order to deflect the level of atrocity behind Trump's decision to bomb another country, Spicer ignored the fact that millions of innocent people — Jews, gay people, priests, "gypsies," people with mental or physical disabilities, resistance fighters — were killed by the use of chemicals in gas chambers.

But what does it matter, right, as long as a point gets across.

Museums and centers around the world are designated to educate their visitors on the perpetrators and victims of Hitler's reign during WWII. In Argentina, the Museo del Holocausto de Buenos Aires holds weekly courses for visitors on different aspects of the Holocaust, ranging from the science behind Hitler's so-called experiments on camp prisoners to important figures who should be remembered for their lack of aid to the suffering.

In Israel, dozens of memorials exist for the various groups persecuted under the former leader's reign: the LGBT community, Jewish and Muslim figures, and martyrs recognized for their contribution to the war against Germany.

The United States is no stranger to Holocaust education centers itself; more importantly, it's no stranger to the groups or descendants of the groups who were tortured and left traumatized by the actions of the former German president.

Over 130,00 Jewish refugees settled in the U.S. over the course of WWII, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial website. The U.S. also has its own history in regards to the use of internment camps in its own territory, relocating tens of thousands of Japanese-Americans as a result of racism during WWII.

Yet, we have politicians who are quick to ignore the sufferings of the Jewish community in order to gain support for political action — mirroring American ignorance.

People continue to miss the significance of the race-power relationship. They're quick to ignore the 6 million Jews killed. They're quick to ignore the torture inflicted by Nazis within concentration camps. They're even quick to ignore the thousands of people killed in gas chambers.

Spicer released an apology, but as heartfelt as it might have been, it doesn't bring resolve or peace. He played the role as another pawn in the Trump administration, building walls between two definitive groups of people: the U.S. and them, the good and the evil, citizens and noncitizens.

By comparing al-Assad's actions to Hitler's, he looks as though he has no clear understanding of what his boss is really doing. I don't think anyone really does.

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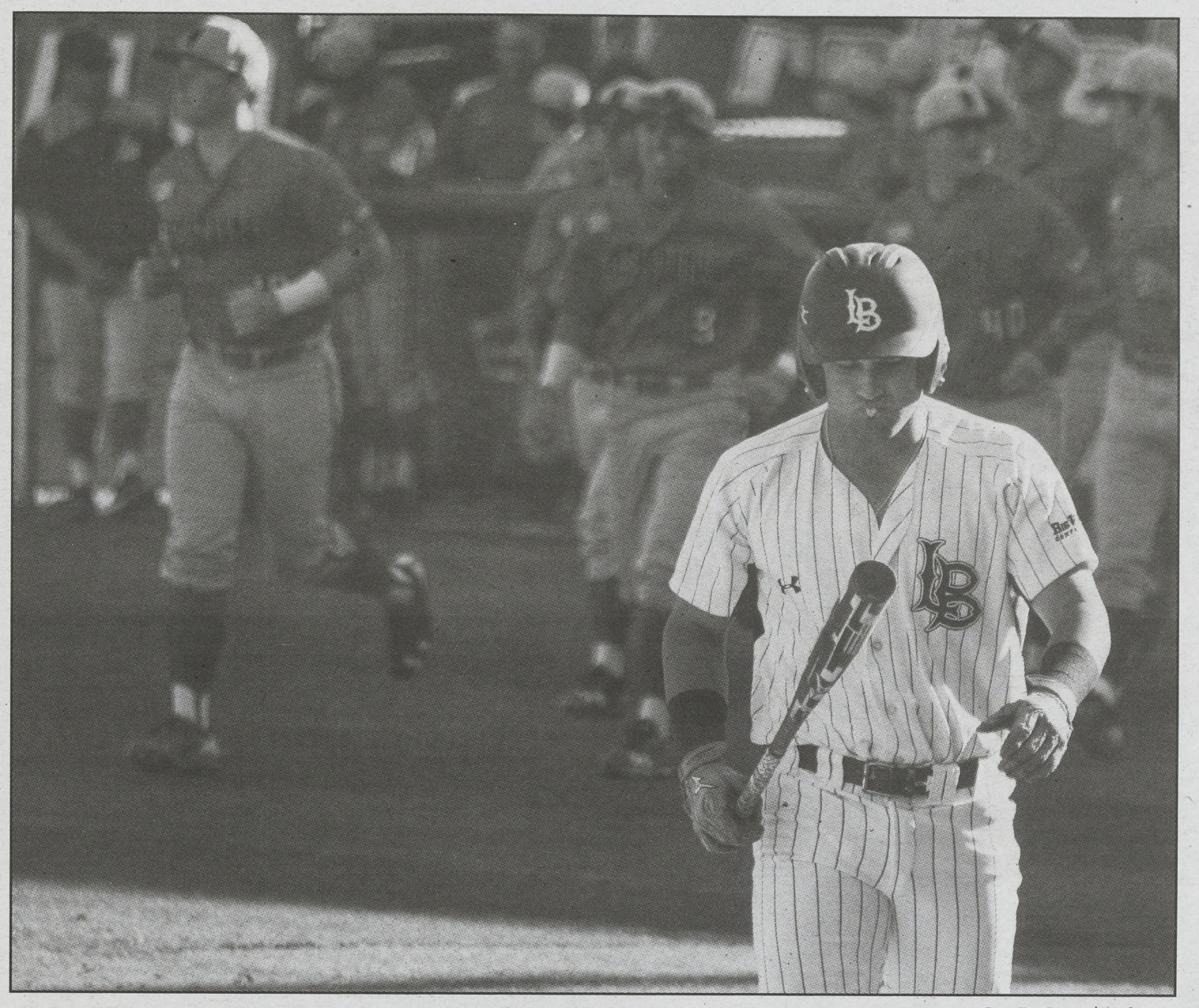


Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

Pinch-hitter Domenic Colacchio walks in disappointment after striking out to end the game Saturday at Blair Field. The Dirtbags ended their 7-game win strike losing to CSUN 8-5.

BASEBALL

Pitching falters in loss

Long Beach State Dirtbags end seven-game homestand against Cal State Northridge.

By Luke Ramirez
Assistant Sports Editor

It had been seven games since the No.12 Long Beach State Dirtbags trailed an opponent, but that all changed in game three of their Big West Conference series against Cal State Northridge.

Four lead changes in Saturday's ball game at Blair Field provided excitement for the home crowd of 1,547 during LBSU's 8-5 loss.

CSUN (17-20, 4-5) snapped the Dirtbags' seven game win streak, 11-game home win streak and evaded the fourth sweep in four series when LBSU (22-12, 7-2) has hosted this season. The Dirtbags could not finish an inning in the game three loss as CSUN scored all eight runs with two outs.

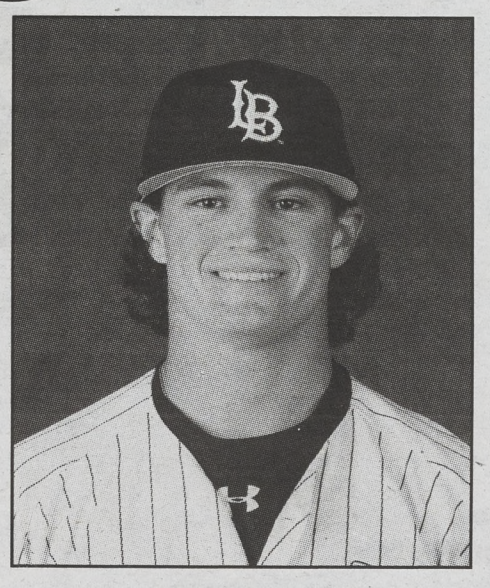
"All their runs were scored with two outs so we didn't make any pitches," head coach Troy Buckley said. "I didn't think anybody was very good on the mound and there was a lot of mistakes today that you just can't do."

Junior Dave Smith started for LBSU but did not look as sharp as he has over the last three weeks, allowing three earned runs on nine hits in 5 2/3 innings on the mound. His counterpart, junior Andrew Weston, pitched well enough to win against the Dirtbags.

"I have to credit to the guy we faced on the mound today," senior first baseman Daniel Jackson said. "He pitched well today and competed a little bit better than us."

Jackson was one of the few to have success against Weston on Saturday, going 2 for 4 with two runs scored and an RBI.

"Today, I finally started swinging at pitches in my zone instead of trying to cover the whole plate," Jackson said. "I stayed behind the ball a little bit and it worked out for me today."



GARRETT NELSON
2-FOR-3, 2 RBIs

Weston (8 IP, 9 H, 5 R, 3 ER, 3 Ks) worked very quickly on the mound, and was kept in the game by his relentless offense that induced two blown leads by the Dirtbags' pitching.

In the top of the sixth inning with two outs and a 2-1 lead, Smith gave up back-to-back doubles that put CSUN in the lead. The tying run scored on senior catcher Dylan Alexander's RBI double that was part of his 4 for 5 day at the plate, driving in three runs.

That wouldn't be the only pitching blunder as freshman Connor Riley gave up a go-ahead 2-run home run that squandered the Dirtbags' 4-3 lead in the top of the seventh inning. Junior first baseman Albee Weiss couldn't have picked a more clutch time to deliver his seventh home run of the season and CSUN went ahead 5-4.

Sophomore center fielder Garrett Nelson performed well over the weekend going 3 for 6 with three RBIs, including a go-ahead single with two outs in the bottom of the sixth that put the Dirtbags in front 4-3.

"It felt good to be out there and have the coaches give me another opportunity to be on the field," Nelson said. "I'm just going to continue to try to be a team guy, do what's asked of me, and take advantage of my opportunities."

Nelson hasn't seen much playing time this season, but could be a good option for a left-handed bat in that spot and platoon with sophomore Domenic Colacchio as well.

"I thought [Nelson] played really good," Buckley said. "He's staying behind the ball better, he has a better feel for the barrel and he had some really good at-bats. We know he can play defense, so that's not an issue."

LBSU set themselves up to sweep CSUN with a dominant pitching performance from junior ace Darren McCaughan on Thursday and more solid pitching from Friday night's starter John Sheaks.

McCaughan retired the last 17 CSUN batters he faced in his complete game that he only allowed two earned runs in. Junior shortstop Laine Huffman was 2 for 2 with a solo home run and a triple in the Dirtbags' 6-2 game one win and lead the offense from the no. 9 spot in the order.

On Friday night, Sheaks threw seven shutout innings before handing the ball over to senior reliever Josh Advocate, who came in a struck out four of the eight batters he faced and recorded his fourth save of the season. Junior catcher David Banuelos powered LBSU past CSUN with his fifth home run of the year, a towering fly ball that sailed over the second fence in left field.

LBSU is now in second place in the Big West Conference with a winning percentage of .778. The Dirtbags trail Cal State Fullerton (23-11, 5-1), who played USC over the weekend, with a .833 winning percentage.

LBSU will be back on the road to face UCLA in a mid-week game on Tuesday. Junior AJ Jones is the probable starter and hasn't seen any action on the mound since his winning performance against USC on April 4.

WYNN

continued from page 1

"[Derek and I have] gotten no sleep all week, we've gone back and forth on it," Wynn said in an interview with the Long Beach Press-Telegram. "Long Beach has been perfect, they've given us a career and an extended family. This is the hardest decision we've ever had to make."

Wynn isn't the first to leave LBSU after having great success. Joan Bonvicini, the winningest coach in LBSU women's basketball history, left LBSU to become the coach at Arizona after winning 10 Big West Conference titles and making the NCAA Tournament 10 consecutive times.

President Jane Close Conoley expressed she was sad to see Wynn go, but understood there are opportunities that cannot be passed up.

"I'm devastated to lose Jody," Conoley said in an email. "She is a great coach, person and colleague. I have to accept, however, that she's been offered an unbelievable opportunity at the University of Washington. We're lucky that we had her for eight years."

Wynn called a team meeting Friday morning to break the news.

"I think it's a good move from the Big West to the Pac-12," sophomore guard Martina McCowan said. "If she left, she probably felt it was the best thing to do and no one can fault her for that."

Along with making the tough decision to take the job, Wynn also mentioned family being a big part of the move, which is a mentality that Wynn brought during her tenure at LBSU. Wynn and her husband Derek have two children and now seemed like the right time to leave.

"Neither Derek and nor I have ever left Southern California, so that was one of the hardest parts," Wynn told the Press-Telegram. "You look at things a little differently when you're a mother. Our kids are at an age where they're not in high school yet and if we're going to make a change, now is a good time."

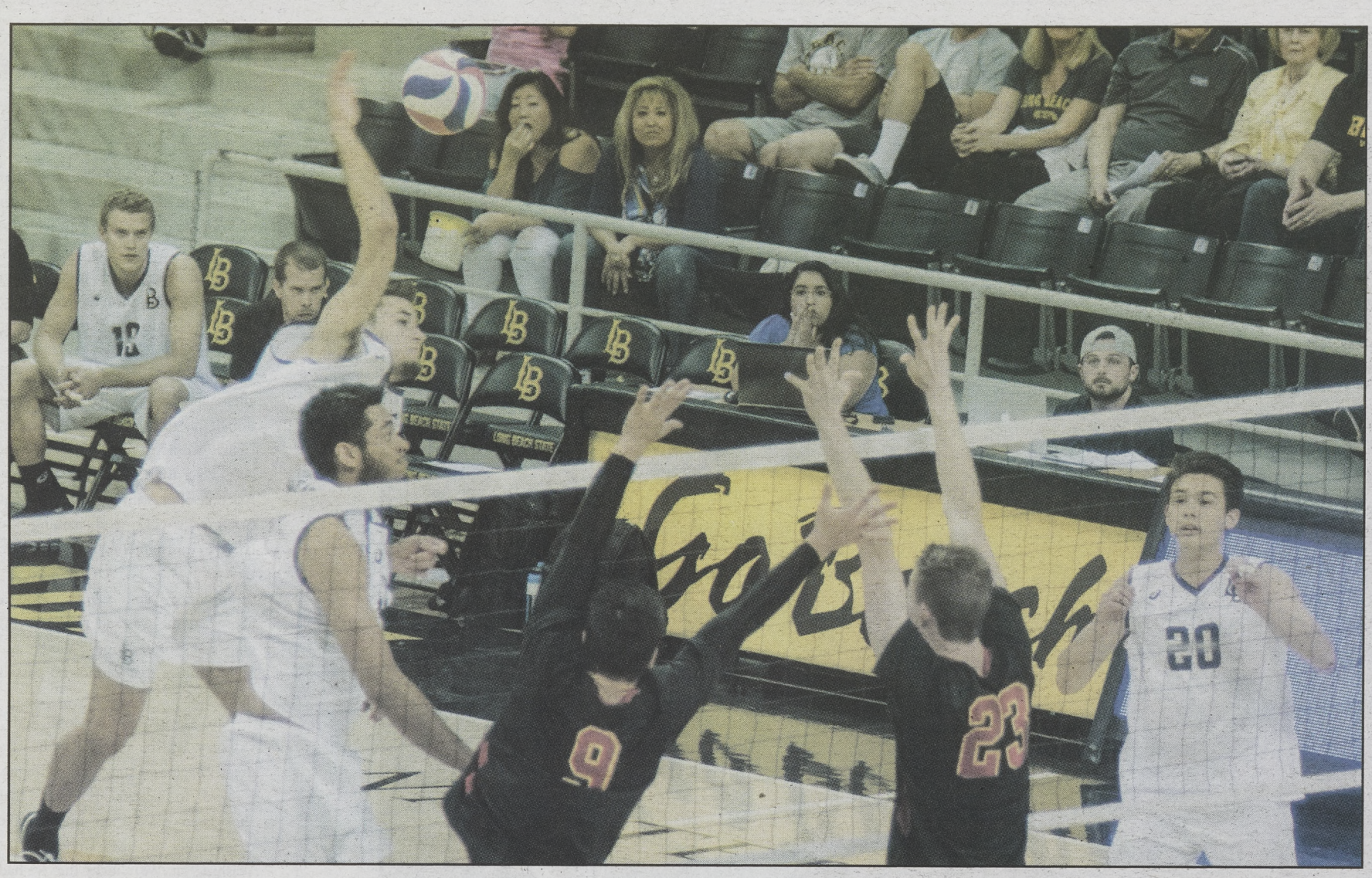
With Wynn at the helm, LBSU became one of the premier programs in the Big West and a destination for many recruits.

"I want to personally thank Jody for everything she has done for Long Beach State Women's Basketball," Interim Athletics Director Cindy Masner said in the release. "Her hard work, dedication and passion have brought our women's basketball program back to national prominence. She will always be part of the Beach family. While she will be deeply missed, this is a great opportunity for her and I want to wish her, her husband Derek and her family the best."

Along with LBSU's announcement of Wynn's departure, the athletics department will immediately start a national search for a new coach.

"We've already been working on the job description for a new women's basketball coach," Conoley said. "We will get a great person because we have a great program. Our student athletes are outstanding and will rise to the occasion, I am sure."

Alex Ormeno-Manfredi contributed to this article.



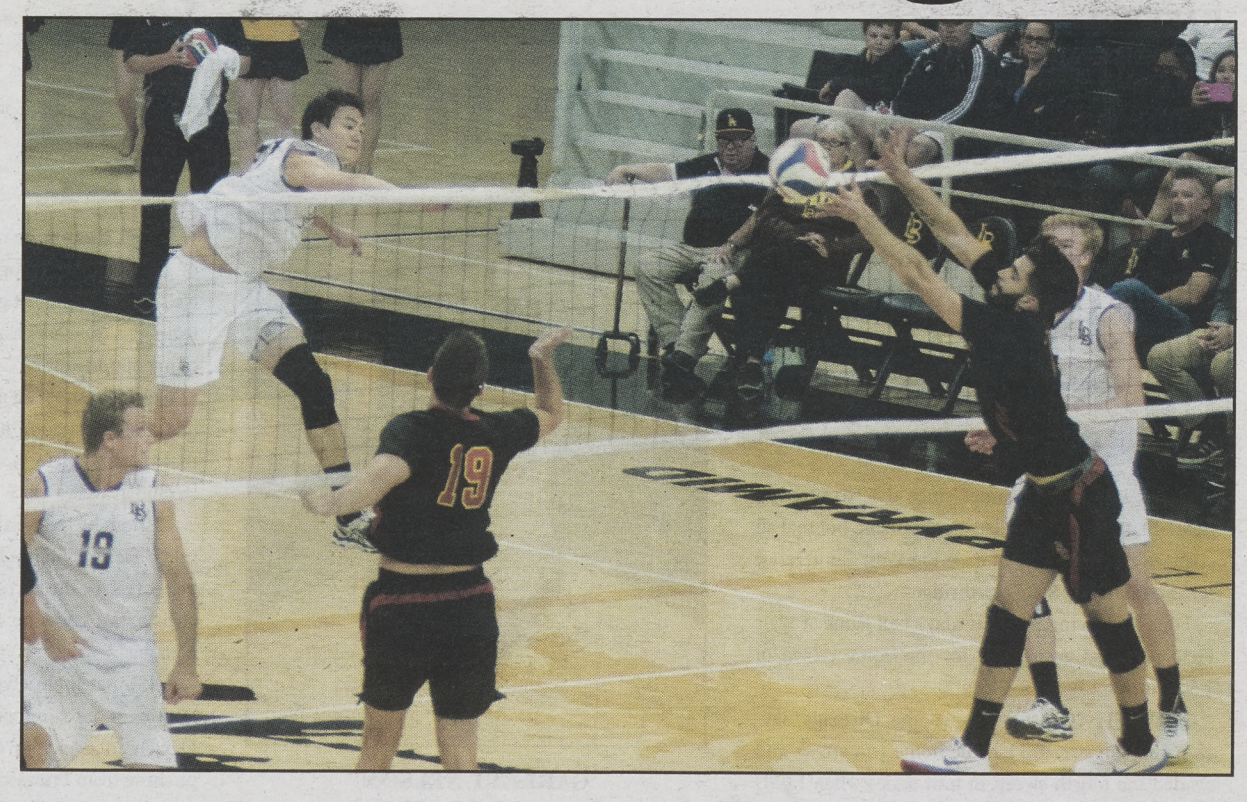
Long Beach State outside hitter TJ DeFalco prepares to spike the ball toward the USC side. The sophomore also had four service aces during the four-set win for the 49ers.
Photos by Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The Beach is moving on

No. 1 Long Beach State had no problem against USC as the team advanced to the semifinals after a four-set victory Saturday night at the Walter Pyramid.

By Jordan Py
Staff Writer



The Long Beach State men's volleyball team kicked off its playoff run by defeating the USC Trojans in four sets on Saturday night at Walter Pyramid.

After splitting the first two matches of the season, both teams winning in their home gym, the familiarity between the two was evident as each set was fast-paced and highly competitive. It was the little things that LBSU did well that helped them move on, winning 25-22, 24-26, 25-18, 25-23.

"I thought we served really well all night long," head coach Alan Knipe said. "We also served really tough the first two sets — I think we only had two or three serving errors."

The last time these two teams met on Feb. 24 at the Pyramid, USC was without All-MPSF first team senior Lucas Yoder, and he made his presence felt as he had a match-high 23 kills against the Beach.

"There is no doubt that Lucas Yoder is one of the best players in our conference, statistically speaking, and he is a big-time player," Knipe said.

Sophomore outside hitter and MPSF player of the year TJ DeFalco had 12 kills, six digs and set a LBSU playoff record with four service aces to lead the Beach into the next round.

"Our plan was to come in and serve tough," DeFalco said. "We wanted to get [USC] out of [our] system, and we did that tonight."

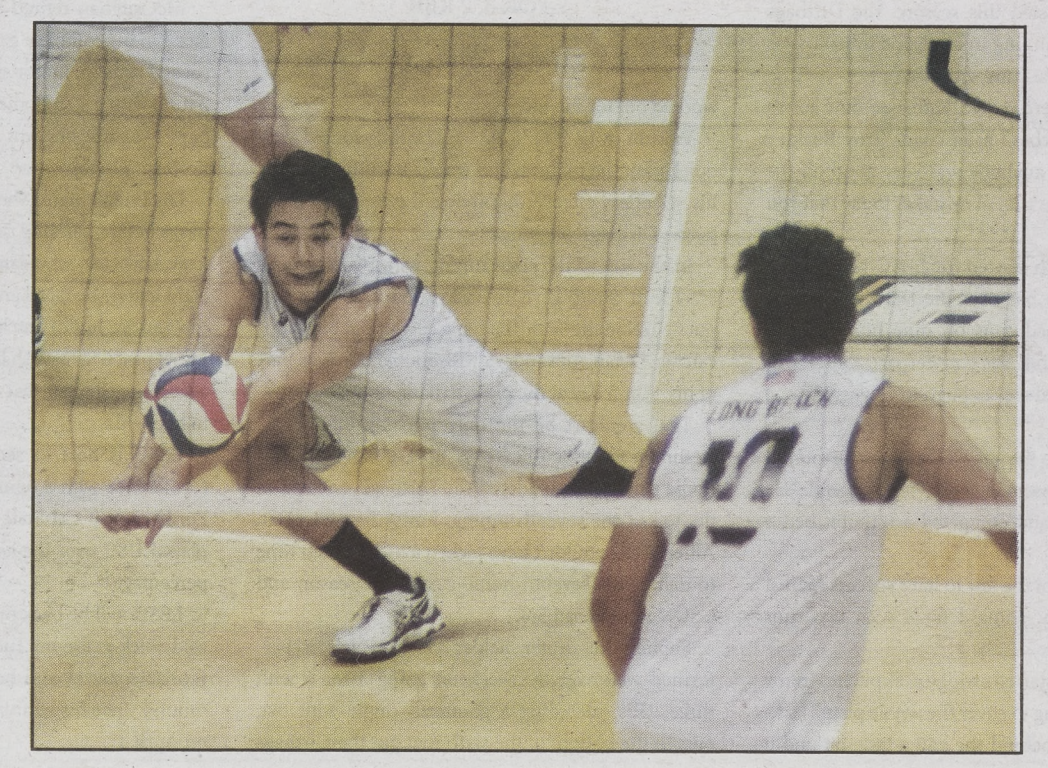
Coach Knipe wasn't shy when asked if he thought DeFalco was one of the best players in the nation.

"I love having TJ on our team," Knipe said. "Not even the skill-set parts of the game, but the intangible parts of his game as far as volleyball IQ, out of system plays, reaction plays [and] seeing the play develop before it really is even happening."

Sophomore setter Josh Tuaniga led the Beach with 43 assists and was proud of the way his team gutted out the victory.

"The playoffs are a whole different animal," Tuaniga said. "Everybody was on their A-game and we were able to embrace that. USC brought it to us in a few of those sets and we were able to grind through that and find a way to pull out the win."

With the victory, LBSU moves onto the MPSF semifinals where they will host UC Irvine at the Walter Pyramid on Thursday at 7 p.m.



Above: Long Beach State outside hitter Andrew Whitt comes down to dig the ball in the first round of the MPSF tournament Saturday. Left: Long Beach State outside hitter Andrew Whitt digs the ball in the first round of the MPSF tournament Saturday.